

SECRET

## Soviet Presses Visiting U.S. Legislators on Arms Pact

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MOSCOW, April 21 — While the Carter Administration and its supporters have been trying to sell the nearly completed strategic arms limitation treaty to the Senate, the Russians have been busily trying to do the same to 18 visiting members of the House of Representatives.

The visit, which began in Soviet Georgia on April 13 and ends tomorrow, coincides with a startling number of Soviet gestures on human rights, one of the central obstacles to improving Soviet-American relations.

The Senate, not the House, will be asked to ratify the treaty. But the Russians have gone out of their way to tell the Representatives, led by John Brademas of Indiana, the majority whip, how much the Soviet Union wants the treaty.

### Russians Stress Parity in Arms

"The U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. have an approximate equilibrium, a parity of forces," Boris N. Ponomarev, a national Communist Party secretary, told the delegation on Thursday. "We have achieved parity of strategic forces at the cost of long and persevering effort. We have no use for, and do not seek, military superiority over the U.S.A."

"Failure to conclude the treaty would lead to a big new spurt in the nuclear arms race," he said, "and would have a grave effect on many important issues perhaps not directly connected with disarmament."

Prime Minister Aleksei N. Kosygin and Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko repeated the plea yesterday and Mr. Ponomarev came back to it again today. Both Mr. Kosygin and Mr. Ponomarev told the legislators that the United States had enough spy satellites to verify the treaty. "They told us the United States has a good intelligence and information system, both on earth and in space," one of the visitors said.

Mr. Brademas told the Russians that he did not know whether the Senate would ratify the treaty. "It looks like an uphill fight," he said.

### The Desire to Get Re-elected

Ronald V. Dellums, Democrat of California, said he had wondered what was going through the minds of the Russians as they listened. "They must think we're crazy," he said. "when they hear us say we're practical politicians, we have to get re-elected, and can't get out in front of our constituencies on these issues. There's nothing more precious than preserving the world for our kids, and you've

got to have the guts to do it no matter whether you get re-elected."

There are signs that the Russians realize the depth of the American distrust of their intentions. Though they deny any connection between strategic issues and the Soviet Union's generally restrictive emigration policies, the following has happened since the arrival of the legislators:

Six Jewish families from Kiev and one from Leningrad were granted permission to emigrate after years of refusals. Leonid V. Slepak, son of a Jewish dissident in exile in Siberia, obtained a visa for his wife and infant son. And on Thursday, five Jewish prisoners convicted in December 1970 on plane hijacking charges were released 14 months before the expiration of their 10-year terms. The trial called forth a wave of protest from Western countries because of apparent anti-Semitic overtones.

### Vanik Sees Basis for Improvement

"Of course I'm encouraged," said Representative Charles A. Vanik, the Ohio Democrat. He and Senator Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington, sponsored the Jackson-Vanik amendment to the 1974 Trade Act. The amendment, directed against the Soviet Union, barred nondiscriminatory tariffs on goods from Communist countries that did not allow free emigration.

Mr. Vanik came here to tell Soviet officials and leaders of the Jewish emigration movement that he favored lifting the restrictions for a two-year period, under the amendment's provisions for a Presidential waiver. He thinks the House could act on the proposal by August.

Neither the Soviet officials nor the Jewish dissidents were pleased at first.

"Inadequate, but a constructive step," Mr. Gromyko told Mr. Vanik yesterday.

Prof. Aleksandr Lerner, was among those who have been refused permission to emigrate, said the proposal was all right, but only if the situation kept improving and if Anatoly B. Shcharansky, a jailed Jewish dissident, was released.

Mr. Shcharansky was tried in July on charges of treason in the form of espionage, of assisting an unidentified foreign state in subversive activity against the Soviet Union, and of anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda. He was sentenced to 13 years in labor camps.

His case aroused protests in the West, and his supporters contend that the charges derived from Mr. Shcharansky's attempts to publicize the cause of Jewish emigration. But Representative Richardson Preyer, Democrat of North Carolina, said that in talks with emigration offi-

cials last week he and Mr. Vanik had received no encouragement that Mr. Shcharansky might be released.

In a meeting at the legislators' hotel on Thursday, Professor Lerner voiced opposition to any relaxation of American restrictive trade legislation and said Soviet emigration curbs had worsened, not improved. But Mr. Vanik pointed out that more than 30,000 Soviet Jews emigrated last year and that this year the total might reach a record 50,000.

"I am also concerned about the consequences of giving favorable trade terms to China this year, but not to the Soviet Union," Mr. Vanik said today, "and I can't believe human rights are better in the People's Republic of China than they are in the Soviet Union."